Production of polyester staple fibre

772. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of polyester staple fibre is about 8,000 m. ton per month whereas the production of viscose staple fibre is only about 5,000 m. ton per month;

(b) whether the spinning mill sector has been requesting Government to allow import of viscose staple fibre to fulfil the above gap at reduced duties to bring the imported fibre at par with that of indigenous fibre prices;

(c) whether the sole manufacturer of viscose staple fibre in the country, MIs. Grasim Industries Limited had unilaterally increased its prices of dyed viscose fibre by about Rs. 3/- per kg. last month despite have given an undertaking in 1985 to Government that it would not effect any price hike; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to ensure supply of full requirement of viscose staple fibre of spinning mills and also ensure proposed production of low-priced polyester blended fabrics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) According to available information, during the period September to November, 1986, the average monthly production of polyester staple fibre was 6065 M.T. and that of regular viscose staple fibre was 8300 M.T.

(b) Yes, Sir, there have been requests for reduction of import duty on viscose staple fibre.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, as there is no such undertaking in force. In any case, the availability of viscose staple fibre through indigenous production and imports under OGL is reviewed from time to time. In order to improve the availability of fibres at competitive prices for projected requirements, Government have, from time to time, issued letters of intent for fresh capacity.

Central team to study issuance of visas by Indian High Commission, London

773. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to send a Central team to London to study the procedure of issuing visas by the Indian High Commission, London to prospective visitors; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Central Team visited High Commission of India, London in December, 1986.

(b) The Team studied visa procedures and had a personal dialogue with visa officers from selected Indian Missions in Western Europe to understand their problems and brief the visa officers about the details of up-dated guide-lines on consular procedures and visa matters. Suitable follow-up action is being taken to stream-line the procedures where found necessary.

774. [*Transferred to the 11th March*, 1987.]

Iran's keenness in increasing trade with India

775. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has shown keenness in boosting trade with India;